

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02279 140154Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 /041 W

----- 042417

P R 140035Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6690

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN. NX

SUBJ: PROPOSED AWARD FOR PRESIDENT FORD

REF: STATE 054263 NOTAL

1. DR ABRAHAM HERSHBERG IS AN OCCASIONAL VISITOR TO THE EMBASSY. HE IS A PLEASANT FATHERLY FIGURE, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE A DEEP LOVE OF PEACE AMONG NATIONS AND WHO TRAVELS WIDELY, IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT ALSO IN LATIN AMERICA, EUROPE AND THE U.S. PRESUMABLY ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF PEACE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE INFORMATION ON IMPORTANCE AND STANDING OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND OF RABBI HERSHBERG PERSONALLY.

2. THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY APPEARS SOMEWHAT DIVIDED IN HIS REGARD. IN THIS CONNECTION A 1973 MEMO IN EMBASSY FILES STATES IN PART: "IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, RABBI SAMUEL S. LERER OF THE BETH ISRAEL COMMUNITY CENTER IN MEXICO CITY SAID RABBI HERSHBERG HAS NO OFFICIAL TITLE BEYOND RABBI. RABBI LERER ADDED THAT RABBI HERSHBERG IS NOT OF THE CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE, BUT THAT, INsofar AS HE KNEW, RABBI HERSHBERG'S SELF-PROFESSED POSITION AS A JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER IN LATIN AMERICA IS NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY EITHER THE ORTHODOX OR THE CONSERVATIVE BRANCHES OF THE JEWISH FAITH."

3. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO QUERY OUR EMBASSIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGARDING HIS REPUTATION IN THAT REGION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 02279 140154Z

IN THIS REGARD, HERSHBERG HAS MADE PARTICULAR MENTION OF HIS

VISITS TO AND CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS IN CAIRO
(ALSO SEE CAIRO'S A-74 OF JULY 15, 1974).

4. EMBASSY SEES NO REAL HARM FROM MEXICO POINT OF VIEW
IN PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTING AWARD IF THIS IS CONSIDERED
ADVISABLE IN A BROADER CONTEXT. WE DOUBT THAT EITHER
ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION, COINED IN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE,
WOULD RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION IN MEXICO, ALTHOUGH LOCAL
JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE DIVIDED ON SUBJECT. WHILE WE HAVE
THE IMPRESSION THAT DR HERSHBERG IS A NAME-DROPPER AND
DIGNITARY-COLLECTOR WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT HIS GOOD
FAITH RE WORLD PEACE AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE HAS
ABUSED RECEPTION GIVEN HIM BY VARIOUS FIGURES OF WORLD
PROMINENCE, SUCH AS (ACCORDING TO HERSHBERG) THE POPE,
PRESIDENT SADAT, UNSEECGEN WALDHEIM, KING HUSSEIN, ETC.
JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, HONOR AWARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO02279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750089-0020
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750350/aaaabsvm.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 054263
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED AWARD FOR PRESIDENT FORD
TAGS: OGEN, SGEM, MX, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (HERSHBERG, ABRAHAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006